



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

April 01, 2005

Magalie R. Salas, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First St., N.E. Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

Docket Nos: CP04-37-000, CP04-44-000, CP04-45-000, CP04-46-000

Dear Ms. Salas:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed construction and operation of the liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal and natural gas pipeline facility proposed by Corpus Christi LNG, L.P. and Cheniere Corpus Christi Pipeline Company to be located in San Patricio and Nueces counties, Texas.

EPA has no comments on additional subjects to offer. However, as a part of its Aquatic Resources Mitigation Plan, the applicant has proposed to construct an additional five breakwaters, beyond the ten originally proposed, at the Shamrock Island seagrass and wetland enhancement project. We fully support this effort, as described in the comments we supplied on the DEIS and the Corps' Public Notice.

We appreciate the information on Coast Guard operating standards and mandatory practices that was provided in the response to our comment regarding the potential for invasive species introductions from increased foreign vessel traffic. This information provided us adequate assurances that best management practices are in place to address this specific concern. However, one aspect of the response does not seem to align with ecological principles and we suggest that this verbiage not be included in other LNG NEPA documents. Specifically, refer to the Final EIS on page H-26: "... the local biotic community is likely adapted to a regular influx of exogenous organisms." We see two problems with this statement. First, it presumes that specific ecological adaptations are at work but those adaptations are left undocumented in the text. Second, although a direct response to the concern was prepared, this statement seems to dismiss the issue as a valid concern. As you know, it is the one exotic species that takes off (i.e., becomes invasive) that can severely impact an ecosystem.

EPA will continue to have environmental concerns with the proposed action and ask that the remaining issue be fully addressed in the Record of Decision. If you have any questions please call Michael Jansky of my staff at (214) 665-7451 or e-mail him at jansky.michael@epa.gov for assistance.

Sincerely yours,

/S/

Bonnie Braganza, Acting Chief
Office of Planning and Coordination